

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 57-84, of which Claims 57, 64, 71, and 78 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Initially, Applicant wishes to express their appreciation for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the interview held on December 11, 2003. At that interview, Applicant's representative discussed the distinctions of the claimed invention over the prior art, and particularly the manner in which the recitation of acquisition means in Claim 57 and the acquiring step in Claims 64, 71, and 78, distinguished over that art. Applicant's representative proposed additional language to the independent claims making clear that the paper feed tray information is acquired before the print information is sent to the host computer and it was agreed at the interview that such additional language would define the scope the independent Claims 57, 64, 71, and 78 to overcome the prior art of record.

In view of the above, Applicant submits herewith amendments to each of the independent claims adding language so that in each case it is abundantly clear that the paper feed tray information is acquired before print data is transmitted to the printer device. Given these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent Claims 57, 64, 71, and 78 is distinguishable over the art of record.

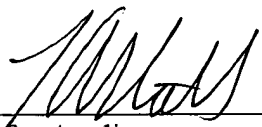
The remaining claims in this application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims. Accordingly, each is patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent

claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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